WHIRRAKEE

October 2005

Vol. 26 No. 9

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2005 - 2006

President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Senior Vice President	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Junior Vice President	Anne Bridley		5449 3479.
Secretary	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Minute Secretary	Jan Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
	(with Peter Ellis as assistant)		
Treasurer	Stuart Fraser		
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	done by the committee		
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
	(an assistant's position for the syllabus organiser is still vacant)		
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Darren White)		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo	5443 2797
		e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
The Annual General Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Ben Goonan, Richard Goonan, Bill Holsworth, Rob Moors, Rod Orr, Bob Ruddick, Darren White.

Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479. To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front Cover Illustration: – These were the tickets and placemats of the 60th Anniversary Dinner. What a great idea! The maps were drawn by Frank Robbins when he surveyed the Whipstick in the 1970s with the help of Peter Ellis and his trusty Holden.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 26, No.9, October 2005
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices		3
60th Anniversary speaker – David Horton 'The politics of conservation'	Sabine Wilkens	4
Treasurer's Report 2004-2005	Stuart Fraser	8
AGM Speaker – Marylin Sprague 'Landscaping with native plants'	Sabine Wilkens	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note:
This time last month, as the September edition went to the printery, I was looking forward to the 60th Anniversary dinner coming up on the 31st August. What a great night it was. The speaker was very interesting, the speeches were memorable (particularly Jack Ipsen's – he could still remember the foundation meeting of the Club, 60 years ago!) and the food, particularly the desserts, were beautiful. Thank to the team of organisers. It all came together very well. Congratulations to Rod Orr and Bill Holsworth who were presented with the club's life membership. They seemed genuinely surprised, but I don't think anybody else was – you couldn't get two more deserving members. The 'Advertiser' was there to record it all!
In the meantime, another AGM has gone past and we have a slightly new team. Thank for all those who agreed to try out the BFNC committee or jobs related to it and thank you also to those who agreed to stay on for another year. Matthew Comer thanked everyone on the night. He recently summed up the club's activities in an article, which appeared in the August edition of Whirrakee. There are still some vacancies on the membership of the committee, so if you were not there on the night or have changed your mind, contact a committee member. We also urgently need an assistant syllabus organiser who will go into apprenticeship with Rod with a view of organising the speakers for 2007. Please consider this as an option if you want to get a bit more involved with the club.
Lastly, apologies to all those people interested in mammal group activities. There was a program of topics for the last few months sent to me by Kerrie Norris but for unknown reasons it did not reach me. Anyway, the program is on the back cover again and topics are organised till February!

Whipstick Westringia Search

For those who are still interested to participate in the Whipstick Westringia search day on Monday 10th October, here are some more details:

Meet at the corner of Milwood and Mellotes Rd at 9:00AM. Vicroads Ref: Map 44. G3. CFA Mapbook Ref: Region 2, MAP 287, F, GR615482.
Bring Lunch, good walking shoes, a pen/pencil, compass, and if possible a GPS unit. Instruction on how to use the GPS' will be given on the day
The walking can be done at your own pace following a compass bearing (north or south), although you must be able to see a person on either side of you at all times (for safety reasons). We will be spaced 20 metres apart. The most likely places to find the plants will be in gully lines, so look extra hard in these areas!
I will have a fact sheet on the plant and a map of the area available on the day *(if you would like one in advance, please contact the editor).*

Hope to see you all there on the 10th. Any questions, please contact me on the details below.

Cheers, Ben Thomas

Threatened Species Project Officer
Dept of Sustainability & Environment
PO Box 3100 Bendigo Delivery Centre
BENDIGO VICTORIA 3554
Ph: 5430 4581 mob. 0427316866
Fax: 5448 4982
Email: ben.a.thomas@dse.vic.gov.au

PhD project: CAN grazing SAVE the endangered Plains-wanderer?

Project partners: Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), Charles Sturt University and The Institute for Land, Water and Society.
Available funding: $45,000 over 3 years to cover project operating and administrative costs.

Something exciting is happening in Oolambeyan National Park, central NSW. A quintessentially Australian agricultural practice, sheep grazing, is being used as a conservation tool to manage the habitat of the endangered Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*). The results of this approach have far-reaching implications for how we balance agricultural productivity with conservation.

The Plains-wanderer is one of the rarest birds in Australia and is currently listed as endangered in NSW. The decline of the species is a result of fox predation and destruction of suitable grassland habitat. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) NSW recently established Oolambeyan National Park (21,851 ha) for the primary purpose of conserving the Plains-wanderer. Oolambeyan was previously a grazing property and has a large expanse of native grasslands supporting a high density of Plains-wanderers. However, habitat suitability relies on appropriate management, as wanderers prefer sites with relatively sparse vegetation cover. Control of vegetation can be achieved by managing herbivores, and sheep are used as a management tool at Oolambeyan.

This PhD project will examine the interactions between herbivores, vegetation cover and the ecology of the Plains-wanderer, and develop management prescriptions for effective on- ground conservation. However, there is sufficient scope in the project to also allow the student to develop their own research interests related to the species. The results of this work will not only contribute to the conservation of an endangered species, but have broad implications for managing biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.

The research will be conducted in Oolambeyan National Park in central NSW. Funding for the project will be provided by DEC (NSW) and Charles Sturt University. However, potential students are required to apply for a Postgraduate Scholarship to cover living expenses. **Closing date for applications is November 1.** Details on how to apply for admission can be found at:
http://www.csu.edu.au/study/index_apply_pg3.htm
and the application form for scholarships is located at: http://www.csu.edu.au/research/forms/index.htm

The PhD is offered through Charles Sturt University, Albury-Thurgoona Campus. The student will be supervised by Dr Gary Luck and Dr Ian Lunt in the School of Environmental and Information Sciences, and be associated with The Institute for Land, Water and Society, an internationally recognised, multi-disciplinary research centre.
Please contact Dr Luck before submitting your application for admission.
Dr Gary Luck,
School of Environmental and Information Sciences,
Charles Sturt University
PO Box 789, Albury, NSW 2640
Email: galuck@csu.edu.au Phone (02) 6051 9945.

60th Anniversary of the BFNC
Speaker: David Horton

The politics of conservation

by Sabine Wilkens

Dr David Horton shares a birth year with the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. That was a good omen for the talk he delivered at the 60th Anniversary of the club. Before he started, he mentioned that he hopes to upset some prejudices and maybe form new ones. I believe he has done that. Below is a summary of his message on the night:

Our forests and woodlands are very fragile resources. In recognition of this fact, National Parks have been established, but usually the day they are declared, pressure is put on them to 'use' them, or, at least, to make them 'safe', by burning them.

If any protest arises in response, we are told that National Parks are not natural environments anyway. They can be burnt and will recover. Its plants and animals are adapted to fire. Don't worry about burning, the Australian biota is used to it, in fact very often relies on it for its survival. David Horton believes that this attitude has been very damaging to the natural environment.

Our forests are said to 'recover' quickly after fire, but very often their 'recovery' is judged by their green colour reappearing, and by some large animals hopping about. However, there is obviously more to a functioning ecosystem than this. How long does it take to recover the various ecological layers, the leaf eating insects, the fungi in the soil, the invertebrates in the litter, the soil crust and bark dwelling animals? Some of these organisms take decades to return. True recovery takes as long as the slowest organism takes to return.

If fire is too frequent, the chances of recovery become less every time. Recovery is hindered further by the fact that, today, natural areas are made up of largely unconnected fragments. In those fragments, populations of larger animals, like possums, are severely damaged by fire. David Horton maintains that there are no plants and animals that are truly adapted to fire. He believes that those plants that re-sprout after fire are probably adapted to drought in the first instance. Indeed many plants have no mechanisms to survive fire.

We are told that aborigines burnt frequently with no ill effect on the landscape. This idea was seized upon and all of Australia's natural areas were declared artificial. Newspaper columnists call for closure of National Parks because they are too dangerous rather than calling on more funds to help them fulfil their role. In fact since they are artificial anyway, they should be managed by the timber industry for something useful – but forestry and grazing are not compatible with conservation.

David, whose background is in anthropology, said that there is no real evidence that Australian aborigines used a lot of fire in the past and there is little evidence of fundamental changes in the flora. Explorer's accounts also need to be read with care.
There is, he says, evidence against the idea that aborigines burnt the landscape to produce green pick for game, and there is no evidence that they ate much kangaroo at all. They probably relied much more on the small animals like possums and lizards, all of which are severely hurt by fire.

In Australia, as everywhere else in the world, natural ecosystems are suffering more and more frequent attacks. This manifests itself through greenhouse gases and other pollutants, feral plants and

animals and, increasingly, the use of fire as a management tool. David believes that there is a whole industry out there that self-perpetuates itself through university research, government departments, government grants, their own jargon, publications, workshops and endless fire reports. The industry around fire is increasing constantly through powerful lobby groups that want to continue it.

In a forest, only the vertical timber has potential economic value, and thus other organisms are not considered worthwhile, particularly the small ones enmeshed in complicated food webs that are far too hard to understand.
The constat emphasis on Australian forests and fire have helped create an environment in which the general public is given the impression that campfires and other accidentally (or deliberately) lit fires are not too devastating because the plants and animals are adapted to it. Anyway, the wilderness out there should be tamed and not taming it is a sign of weakness or failure to manage. Other emotions are also played out. Australians also fear fire and legal claims are used a leverage to burn the nearby bush.
All this is reinforced regularly with the spurious claims that aborigines did it for thousands of years.

It is curious, said David, that while everything else aborigines ever did has not been regarded as having any great value, the fire industry has jumped on this aspect of apparent aboriginal culture with such gusto. The term 'firestick farming', which has been taught to generations of environmental science students, could well have been invented in a backroom of an ANU bar at some stage. After that, the idea seemed such a good one, that the facts were fitted around it.

True, David says, fire in Australia was increasing 40 000 years ago as judged from the pollen record and that might have been associated with the arrival of aborigines in this country. However, the idea then became so entrenched that when they found fire evidence in the pollen record 120 000 years ago, they concluded that aboriginals must have been here 120 000 years ago (rather than questioning their association in the first place). Yes, and it is true that some mosaic type burning takes place in the Northern Territory today, but David believes people did uncritically extrapolate this geographically and temporarily to the whole country. How can such untruths be spread so widely and be so uncritically accepted?

Here is where the Australian media come in to which such self-serving campaigns are not new. There are several techniques of media personalities that are highly suspect. One technique is that the word 'claim' is used a lot. In a recent campaign in Victoria, it was used to describe findings by CSIRO scientists and, equally, to the local cattlemen's counter opinion, thus giving each statement equal value in the eyes of the public.
Another technique is that talk show hosts always have one from each camp. The camps could be highly uneven in their following and credibility but this is a way of appearing unbiased. Global warming and increasing salinity is still denied by a handful of scientists, but in a media show down, there will be one who believes it is happening and one who does not, giving the impression that opinion is equally divided amongst the scientific community. Apparently, the tobacco industry started like this in a big way and this method is now refined in the politics of environmental debates.

David divided up scientists, into right wing and left wing scientists. The right wing scientists believe in economic values, in humans dominating over nature, in market forces being the only worthwhile force out there and in

technology as a solution to everything. These people often have very definite views and are media savvy and, in addition they are in the minority which make them great value for media stories.
The left wing scientist generally does not believe in technology as being the only answer, and believes that sustainable development is a phrase without meaning. They generally qualify their statements, are more cautious and thus often less attractive to the media.
And...since there is 'such divided opinion in the scientific community', politicians find it easy to justify doing nothing about large environmental issues.

Times are good for right wing scientists in the present political climate. Each talk show host is competing for a position and they have to move further and further to the right to avoid competition. Appointments by governments of these people make it seem as if their right wing opinions are normal or neutral. They want to shoot every kangaroo they see, fell each tree and see international treatise as a restriction to the Australian way of life. In their view, society is always on the verge of breakdown.

David, in spite of his strong opinions, has no real answer to the dangers of bushfires in Australia. He says that frequent burning may dry out the bush even more and increase subsequent fire danger. Education however plays a key role, he believes. Occasional fires are not a problem, but the increasing use of fire in a fragmented landscape makes the natural environment even less resilient to it.

After many questions that David answered patiently, Bill Holsworth, in thanking the speaker, mentioned the work of Don Franklin with native bamboo who has also found that fire is harmful to this species. David was presented with Chris Tzaros' book. It was a great night out and a very big thanks goes to Rod Orr for organising such an interesting speaker and managing to get him to Bendigo under difficult circumstances.

Editor's note:
Not only did our speaker share a birth year with the Club, he also shares a conviction that resonates with a large proportion of our membership. However, not all members would be swept away by these arguments.
On a continental level, we need more evidence, either evidence that shows our fauna and flora has evolved in the presence of fire, or a convincing lack of evidence that it has done so. While there is doubt either way (although there is probably no doubt in David Horton's mind and equally, in the minds of members of the 'fire industry') we should adopt the precautionary principle when it comes to burning. For starters though, it seems we need to buy David's new book when it comes out in which, presumably much evidence is forthcoming. The title is probably going to be 'Fire about my Ears', so look out for that one.
On a local level, however, and this is most important, much evidence already exists on the devastating effects of fire for fauna and flora. It is wrong to sit back and wait for generalities to be agreed on in a continent of this size as this day may never come.
It would be terrific if members would write in and express their views on this matter.

September general meeting – Speaker: Marylin Sprague
'Landscaping with native plants'

by Sabine Wilkens

Marylin had structured her talk in such a way that various topics of soil preparations were dealt with first, and

then she showed some examples of gardens and garden beds that illustrated the points made.

Many people are actually feeling guilty about gardening, as, traditionally, it is known to use a lot of water. However, a garden planted with local plants does not need watering because 'nobody waters the bush'. As people's awareness of water restrictions increases and the knowledge that having to save water becomes the norm rather than the exception, gardening with natives is becoming more and more popular.

With water saving in mind, planting in winter is best, as the winter rains will then water the plants in.

However to give native plants a chance, weed control is also vital. If the soil is badly contaminated, scalping may be the best solution. This involves removing all of the weed seed infested top soil with a grader. An alternative to scalping is spraying but this may have to be done for several consecutive years to exhaust all of the weed seeds in the soil.

If new soil is brought in, it has to be native soil. This may not look very attractive but local plants will do best in this. A lot of commercially bought soil is very unlike native soil, is full of weed seeds and does not wet properly. This can be remedied to some extent by the addition of bentonite or perhaps small amounts of native soil. Local Bendigo soil is of sedimentary origin, whereas soil from surrounding areas may be based on basalt or granite. These are important differences.

Ripping the soil prior to planting is important, particularly along the contours of the property, to allow increased water infiltration and to stop water running off. Ripping will also undo the damage caused by years of soil compaction. Marylin recommends shallow ripping every metre or so up to a depth of 200-300 mm.

Another treatment that enhances water absorption is mulching but there are many misconceptions about this. The local bush usually only has a thin layer of mulch. Many people add too much mulch and this may cause stem rot if the mulch is piled up close to the plants. Marylin, over the years, has come to prefer sand and local stone instead of organic mulch. One advantage of non-organic 'mulch' is that it does not freeze and thus keeps the plants overall warmer. It also does not cause stem rot as it drains very easily. In some cases a strip of sand used in this manner may also serve as a firebreak between the bush and a residence.

Marylin then showed us some examples of local gardens that she has been involved with in some way. In some she just provided the plants whereas in others she was more involved in the design aspect. A very good starting point of garden design is to look at the local bushland and try and work out why it looks so good. Nobody has designed the bush and yet, it looks fantastic. Consider the big picture first by thinking about large shapes, paths, fencing, walls and views. When considering the plants, replication is important.

Some gardens may be more vertical than horizontal. Vertical design may be a solution for a small garden. Marylin showed us slides of the development of her nursery's 'pipe garden' which looked absolutely fantastic only one year after being started. Then there was a garden from White Hills, which looked like a riot of colour from a marvellous crowd of beautiful plants, including many potted ones. The use of pots allows the design to be changed depending on the season and what species are wanted to be dominating at any one time. There was a garden from the inner city of Bendigo which has just been 'done' using sand as mulch – a great

showpiece. There were more formal and more wild gardens but my favourite garden was the one that looked just like a piece of lovely bush (John Robinson's garden).

Marylin's talk ended with a discussion of some of the local varieties of native plants, the special plants of which there may only be one or two specimens in the district. Marylin has become very good at propagating such plants and has them for sale at the Goldfields Nursery. She had brought along some potted specimens and inspired everybody at the end with the beauty of these.

I certainly got out into the garden that weekend and now have big plans…

Treasurer's Report for 2004-2005 by Stuart Fraser

Statement of receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 July 2005

Meeting Hall Account

Receipts		Expenditure	
Hall Hire	5885.00	City of Greater Bendigo	2268.00
Donations	1800.00	Painting Transfer to General Acc.	1800.00
Hall Painting	1800.00	Government Charges	6.00
Interest	26.37		4074.00
	$9511.37	Surplus for Year	5437.37
			$9511.37

Bank Balance at 1 August 2004		Bank Balance at 31 July 2005	
Cheque A/c	5062.93	Cheque A/c	10500.30
Surplus for Year	5437.37		
	10500.30		10500.30

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditures and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditures as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31July 2005.

D. D. Wright C. P. A.
Auditor 9/4/05

Statement of receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 July 2005

General Account – Investment Account

Receipts			Expenditure		
Membership		3222.50	Government Charges		24.60
Subscriptions		232.50	Whirrakee Printing		1323.74
Donations		189.00	Whirrakee Post		651.68
Interest		325.98	Membership of Groups		225.00
Books 'Tzsaros'		1545.00	Printing		30.80
DSE 'Weed and Pest'		10,000.00	Hall Repairs		3599.12
Miscellaneous:			Community Grants		880.00
Flower Show	956.15		Tzsaros Books & CD's		1907.73
Hall Painting	1800.00	2756.15	Consumer Affairs		35.80
			Miscellaneous:		
			Sign for flower Show	122.10	
			Audit	170.00	
			Flower Show Expenses	101.70	
			Bus Trip & Plant P.S.	193.00	
			Business Service Centre	12.40	
			Public Liability Ins.	300.00	
			60th Anniversary Dinner	338.00	
			Speaker Reimbursement	50.00	1287.20
					9965.67
			Surplus for Year		8305.46
		$18271.13			$18271.13

Bank Balance at 1 August 2004		Bank Balance at 31 July 2005	
Cheque A/c	4903.89	Cheque A/c	13209.35
Term Deposit	10072.95	Term Deposit	10072.95
Surplus for Year	8305.46		
	$23282.30		$23282.30

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditures and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditures as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31July 2005.

D. D. Wright C. P. A.

Auditor

Statement of receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 July 2005

Publication Account – Investment Account

Receipts		Expenditures	
Sales:			
Wildflowers	123.00	Expenses	0.00
Birds	89.00		
Orchids	140.00		
CD-Weeds	145.00		
CD-Box-Ironbark	280.00		
Wildflower Poster	50.00		
Mixed Books	1118.10		
Postage	5.00		
Interest	880.07	Surplus for Year	2830.17
	$ 2830.17		$2830.17

Bank Balance at 1 August 2004		Bank Balance at 31 July 2005	
Cheque A/c	13323.74	Cheque A/c	16153.91
Term Deposit	15818.84	Term Deposit	15818.84
Term Deposit	6500.00	Term Deposit	6500.00
Surplus for Year	2830.17		
	$ 38472.75		$ 38472.75

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditures and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditures as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31July 2005.

D. D. Wright C. P. A.

Auditor

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, October 12 7.30pm
Mark Bellette will talk about his PhD studies at the University of Melbourne, "*Xanthorrhoea* – ecology and flowering'.

Wednesday, November 9 7.30pm
David Hollands, a wildlife photographer is the speaker, and his topic is 'Owls of the World'.

Wednesday, December 14 6.30pm
Christmas Dinner
(note earlier starting time)
The speaker is Neville Rosengren and he will discuss conservation issues for the Giant Gippsland earthworm.

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, October 26 7.30pm
Topic: Bird observations and changing patterns

Wednesday, November 23 7.30pm
Topic: Birds of Lord Howe Island (slides by Rob and Cynthia Watkins)

Wednesday, February 22 7.30pm
Topic: Possums

Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wilderness Society Meeting

There will be a meeting in the Campbell Theatrette about the 'Gunns 20' (the group of 20 individuals who are being sued for various amounts by the timber company Gunns).
When: October 10, 7pm.
Check the 'Advertiser' the previous days for any changes to this date and time.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need.
Phone: 0419 356433.

Bendigo Field Naturalists on the web

Any comments about the site are most welcome.

http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html

---

Whipstick Westringia Search

10th October, 9.00am.
See article on page 3.